Office of International Networks, Cooperation, and Security (INCS)

Committee

Romain Murenzi

Member

Romain Murenzi is a Professor of Physics and Honorary Professor of Science Policy and Diplomacy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He currently serves as Chair (2026) of the New England Section (NES) of the APS (American Physical Society). He previously served as Executive Director of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) under UNESCO, Director of UNESCO's Division for Science Policy and Capacity Building, Director of the AAAS Center for Science, Technology, and Sustainable Development, and Minister of Education as well as Minister of Science, Technology, and ICT for the Republic of Rwanda, Chair of Physics Department at Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, Georgia). His professional expertise spans quantum physics, multidimensional signal analysis, wavelets, science and technology policy, and global science diplomacy. He has led major international programs supporting scientific capacity building, advised governments on innovation and development strategies, and contributed extensively to advancing STEM education and research infrastructures in developing countries. His academic work includes more than 29 journal articles in physics and over 49 conference papers, along with influential policy papers on science, technology, and innovation.

Murenzi is an elected Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), and the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS). His honors include the ASSAF Distinguished Scholar Award (2020), an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering from the University of Johannesburg (2019), and the African ICT Achievers Award (2008). With the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine: (i) Chair of the Workshop on Systems of Engagement for Black People in the Global Scientific Enterprise and (ii) Member of the Committee on Scientists and Engineers in Exile or Displaced (SEED). He was elected to the Board of the Tesla Science Center in Long Island, New York. Finally, February 8, 2023, was dedicated to him by the National Society for Black Physicists during Black History Month.

Karen C. Seto

Chair

Karen C. Seto (NAS) is the Frederick C. Hixon Professor of Geography and Urbanization Science at Yale University. An urban and land change scientist, she is one of the world's leading experts on contemporary urbanization and global change. Her research focus is on how urbanization will affect the planet. She has pioneered methods to reconstruct urban land use with satellite imagery and has developed novel methods to forecast urban expansion. She has conducted urbanization research in China for twenty years and in India for more than ten. Her research has generated insights into the links between urbanization and land use, food systems, biodiversity, and climate change. Dr. Seto has served on numerous national and international scientific bodies. She is co-leading the urban mitigation chapter for the IPCC 6th Assessment Report and co-lead the same chapter for the IPCC 5th Assessment Report. She is co-editor-in-chief of the journal, Global Environmental Change. From 2000 to 2008, she was faculty at Stanford, where she held joint appointments at the Woods Institute for the Environment and the School of Earth Sciences. She has received numerous awards for her scientific contributions, including the Outstanding Contributions to Remote Sensing Research Award from the American Association of Geographers. Dr. Seto is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She earned a Ph.D. in Geography from Boston University.

Jeff Martin

Member

Through the marketing and development of groundbreaking technologies, Jeff Martin has spent his career applying innovation to multimedia product design. Martin continues to build new mobile commerce channels by changing the way consumers engage with entertainment, industry and philanthropy. In 2001 and 2008, Martin founded Tribal Brands and Tribal Technologies, respectively. Tribal Brands developed mCommerce solutions for a variety of consumer brands and was one of the first companies to drive more than one billion dollars in mobile-based sales for the entertainment industry through 17 global carrier alliances. Tribal Technologies created one of the first intelligent databases behind mobile applications that predicted consumer behavior and interactions, powering unique mCommerce channels, and providing incentive programs for consumers. The extensive mobile analytics platform captured actionable, psychographic data highlighting user tastes and preferences collected through mobile devices. In 2014, Tribal Brands and Tribal Technologies were combined to create Tribal Planet. In 2013 Martin founded mPowering, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that transformed the way philanthropic causes collaborated and utilized mobile technology to fight global poverty; this helped change century-old behavior by building mobile rewards systems that provided instant, positive reinforcement for consumers that performed philanthropic actions around education, medicine and local commerce. Martin was a founding member of the Verizon board of developers, served as a voting member of The National Recording Academy of Arts & Sciences / GRAMMY Awards, and was appointed by the Under- Secretary-General of the United Nations to the UNFPA Global Advisory Board for Innovation. Martin is a former international consultant for digital imaging technologies at the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (GATF), through which he taught at Carnegie Mellon University’s Graduate School of Industrial Administration (GSIA). Martin has also taught at the Haas’ Executive Education Program at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to Tribal Planet, Martin helped pioneer the entertainment and new media markets divisions at Apple in the early 1990s for 9 years and was a direct report to Steve Jobs after the NEXT acquisition.

Catherine A. Novelli

Member

Catherine A. Novelli is a Senior Advisor at Shearwater Global, a strategic consulting firm. She also serves as President of Listening for America, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to forging a new vision of U.S. international trade engagement. She is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, where she served as a Centennial Fellow (2018-2019). She previously served as Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment (2014-2017) where she promoted economic reform and open markets for U.S. products and services. As Under Secretary, Ambassador Novelli spearheaded the first-of-its-kind Our Ocean movement, which, during her tenure, resulted in $10 billion for Ocean conservation and has become a continuing global effort. She also launched the Global Connect Initiative, an innovative partnership with governments, multilateral development banks and the private sector to connect 1.5 billion people to the Internet. Novelli spent seven years as Vice President, Worldwide Government Affairs at Apple Inc where she headed a multinational international team responsible for Apple's government relations and public policy. Prior to her position at Apple, she was a partner in the law firm of Mayer Brown International. She had a long career at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, rising to Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Europe & the Mediterranean, where she coordinated U.S. trade and investment policy for Europe, Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Northern Africa. She took a leading role in many of the most important U.S. trade negotiations in those regions, including free trade agreements with Jordan, Morocco and Bahrain, and Oman. As the Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, she negotiated most of the bilateral trade and investment agreements that underpin our economic relationship in that region. Novelli currently serves on the Board of the National Wildlife Federation and the Advisory Board of the Pristine Seas Initiative of the National Geographic Society. She was also named an Ocean Elder. Novelli has received numerous honors and awards, including the State Department Distinguished Service Award and the International Trade Woman of the Year Award. She is a graduate of Tufts University, holds a law degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Laws from University of London.

Kiron Skinner

Member

Kiron Skinner is and international relations, US foreign policy, and political strategy expert and is the Taube Family Chair of International Relations and Politics at Pepperdine School of Public Policy. She is the founding director of the Grand Strategy Program in the School of Public Policy and the founding director of the University's Institute for Diplomacy, Security, and Innovation. She is also the W. Glenn Campbell Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and a senior advisor to the president of the Heritage Foundation.

Skinner previously served as the Taube Professor for International Relations and Politics at Carnegie Mellon University, where she founded and directed several centers and institutes, including the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program. Skinner's past government service includes membership on the US Department of Defense's Defense Policy Board as an adviser on the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, the Defense Business Board, the Chief of Naval Operations' Executive Panel, the National Academies Committee on Behavioral and Social Science Research to Improve Intelligence Analysis for National Security, the National Academies Committee on International Talent Programs in the Changing Global Environment, and the National Security Education Board. From 2012 to 2015 she served on Pennsylvania governor Tom Corbett's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs.

From September 2018 to August 2019, Skinner served as director of the Office of Policy Planning and as senior policy adviser to the US secretary of state. In those roles, she reengaged the Department of State in red-team exercises on regional conflicts, spearheaded ties between the State and Defense Departments in critical areas, began a nationally discussed and debated discussion on the need for an Article X on China, and fostered transatlantic partnerships through numerous strategic dialogues, including the first Policy Planners Summit for NATO. She played a central role in creating the Commission on Unalienable Rights and rechartering the Foreign Affairs Policy Board, and she served as the secretariat for both entities.

Skinner has expertise in cyber security and emerging technologies. At Carnegie Mellon University, she helped create interdisciplinary undergraduate and master's degrees in cybersecurity and military history. She also served as a convener for the National Security Agency and US Cyber Command to bring national thought leaders to Fort Meade. Skinner's technology work has been supported by the Bradley Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, and the Scaife Foundation.

Karen B. Strier

Member

Karen B. Strier (NAS) is a Vilas Research Professor and the Irven Devore Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A biological anthropologist, she is a distinguished authority on primate behavioral ecology and conservation. Her pioneering field research has focused on the northern muriqui, a critically endangered species she has studied in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest since 1983. Her long-term research has challenged traditional views of primate behavior and adaptation. She is Co-chair of the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences – IANAS and Regional Representative on the IAP Advisory Committee. She has held positions in many scientific societies, including as President of the International Primatological Society from 2016-2022. She has received numerous national and international awards for her contributions to science, conservation, and education, including the Distinguished Primatologist Award from the American Society of Primatologists and the “Premio Muriqui” from the Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve, one of the most important awards for environmental action in Brazil. She is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. She earned her PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Chicago.

Nadine N. Aubry

Ex Officio Member

Nadine Aubry (NAE) is Distinguished Professor and Dean of the Northeastern University College of Engineering, is a widely known leader in the field of fluid dynamics, particularly the modeling of open flow turbulence and other complex flows and systems using advanced decomposition techniques and dynamical systems theory. She also made noteworthy contributions to the field of microfluidics. For these and other contributions to the profession, Dr. Aubry was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Other recognitions include the Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). She has served as Chair of the National Academies’ U.S. National Committee for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (USNC/TAM), as Chair of the US delegation to the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM), as past Chair of the American Physical Society Division of Fluid Dynamics and as a member of the Bureau of IUTAM. Dr. Aubry has also been serving on many APS and ASME committees, numerous NSF and National Research Council review panels, and a certain number of advisory boards and review panels in the U.S. and in foreign countries, including Austria, France, Portugal, Singapore, and South Korea. She has given numerous invited lectures on her research at various universities and conferences. Before joining Northeastern, she was the Raymond J. Lane Distinguished Professor, University Professor, and head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

Carlos del Rio

Ex Officio Member

Dr. del Rio, the H. Cliff Sauls Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, He is also Professor of Epidemiology and Global Health at the Rollins school of Public Health and co-PI of the Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and co-PI of the Emory Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit. Dr. del Rio is a native of Mexico where he attended medical school at Universidad La Salle, graduating with honors in 1983. He did his Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases residencies at Emory University. In 1989 he returned to Mexico where he was Executive Director of the National AIDS Council of Mexico (CONASIDA, the Federal agency of the Mexican Government responsible for AIDS Policy throughout Mexico), from 1992 through 1996. In November of 1996 he returned to Emory where he has been involved in teaching and research. Dr. del Rio was Chief of the Emory Medical Service at Grady Memorial Hospital from 2001 - 2009 and Chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health from 2009 - 2019. Dr. del Rio served as Interim Dean of the School of Medicine (2023 – 24). del Rio's is a global leader in research on improving access to diagnosis and care for hard-to-reach populations at risk for and living with HIV. During COVID-19 del Rio was a leader locally and nationally doing research, developing policies, writing editorials and as a trusted medical expert for the media.

Dr. del Rio is Chief Section Editor for HIV/AIDS for NEJM Journal Watch Infectious Diseases and Associate Editor for Vaccines as well as member of the editorial board of Journal of AIDS and Global Public Health. He has co-authored 30 book chapters and over 600 scientific papers. Dr. del Rio is the former Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of PEPFAR, member of UNAIDS Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and past president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. In 2013 Dr. del Rio was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, and, in 2020, he was elected as the International Secretary of the National Academy of Medicine. In 2022 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

John G. Hildebrand

Ex Officio Member

John G. Hildebrand is Regents Professor Emeritus of Neuroscience at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, he earned his B.A. (biology, 1964) at Harvard University and Ph.D. (biochemistry, 1969) at Rockefeller University. After faculty service at Harvard (1970-1980) and Columbia (1980-1985) Universities, he joined the University of Arizona as founding head of the Division of Neurobiology (1985-2009) and later the Department of Neuroscience (2009-2013) after the Division became a Department in the College of Science. His research fields are insect neurobiology and neuroethology, chemical ecology, and vector biology. A past president of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences, International Society of Chemical Ecology, and International Society for Neuroethology, he served as International Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences (2014-2026). He is a member or fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Philosophical Society, Brazilian Academy of Sciences, German National Academy of Sciences 'Leopoldina', National Academy of Sciences, Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters, and The World Academy of Sciences; Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society (UK); and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Entomological Society of America, the International Society for Neuroethology, and the International Science Council.

Cherry A. Murray

Ex Officio Member

Cherry Murray is Benjamin Peirce Professor of Technology and Public Policy and Professor of Physics, Emerita, Harvard University. She was Professor of Physics and Deputy Director of Research at Biosphere2 at University of Arizona; Professor of Physics and Dean of Harvard University School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Principal Associate Director for Science Technology and Engineering at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and held multiple positions at Bell Laboratories, concluding as Senior Vice President for Physical Sciences and wireless Research. Her research interests have evolved from experimental condensed matter and surface physics to nanotechnology, innovation, R&D of telecommunications networks, policy for science, technology, energy and national security, science diplomacy and global sustainable development. She is a member of NAS and NAE and served in the past on NRC Governing Board and on NAS and NAE Councils, She is a fellow and past board and council member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, past board member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, past president of the American Physical Society, treasurer and past co-chair of the InterAcademy Partnership and past co-chair of the United Nations 10-Member Group. Murray has received the US National Medal of Technology and Innovation as well as the American Physical Society Maria Goeppert-Mayer Award and George E. Pake Prize. Murray’s past US government service included numerous federal advisory committees and commissions and an appointment as the Director of the US Department of Energy Office of Science. She has also served on advisory committees for Singapore National Science Foundation, the Max Planck Society and the Helmholtz Association in Germany, and RIKEN in Japan. She is past chair of the governing board of Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University, Japan and is currently serving as a trustee of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Murray obtained B.S. (1973) and Ph.D. (1978) degrees in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has multiple years of volunteer service to the Academies. Her term on the NAE Council concludes in June 2026, after which she will assume the position of NAS International Secretary. She is currently co-chair of the NASEM Report Review Committee and co-chair of the Roundtable on Sustainability.

Vaughan C. Turekian

Staff Officer